

ADMINISTRATIVE

Idaho EMS Guideline
Administrative

CRIME SCENE/ PRESERVATION OF EVIDENCE

1. If you believe a crime has been committed, immediately contact law enforcement.
2. Protect yourself and other EMS personnel. You will not be held liable for failing to act if a scene is not safe to enter. Once a crime scene is deemed safe by law enforcement, initiate patient contact and medical care.
3. Do not touch or move anything at a crime scene unless it is necessary to do so for patient care.
4. Have all EMS providers use the same path of entry and exit. Do not walk through fluids on the floor.
5. Observe and document original location of items moved by crew.
6. When removing patient clothing, leave intact as much as possible. Do not cut through clothing holes made by gunshot or stabbing.
7. If you remove any items from the scene, such as impaled object or medication bottle, document your action and advise investigating officers.
8. Do not sacrifice patient care to preserve evidence.
9. Consider requesting a law enforcement officer to accompany the patient in the ambulance to the hospital.
10. Document statements made by the patient or bystanders on the EMS patient care report.
11. Inform staff at the receiving hospital this is a “crime scene” patient.
12. If the patient is obviously dead, contact medical control for directions to withhold resuscitative measures and do not touch body.
13. For traffic accidents, preserve the scene by parking away from skid marks and debris.

The Idaho EMS Bureau has taken extreme caution to ensure all information is accurate and in accordance with professional standards in effect at the time of publication. This guideline is for reference and may be modified at the discretion of the EMS Medical Director. It is recommended that care be based on the patient’s clinical presentation and on authorized policies and guidelines.